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July 6, 2001

Dr. Jane Summerson, EIS Document Manager (M/S 010)
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
DOE - Office of Civilian radioactive Waste Management
P. O. Box 30307
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

Dear Dr. Summerson:

1 This letter is written in strong opposition to the transport of nuclear waste materials to the Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

2 Approximately 3 weeks ago, the community of Webster Groves experienced a serious train derailment. This occurred despite railroad safeguards to prevent such an accident, especially the location of so-called "hot boxes" to detect train malfunctions. In our case, an axle had broken and as such traveled over 20 miles before the derailment.

This derailment occurred in a residential neighborhood. We were fortunate that the 13 cars fell to the east; if they had fallen to the west, they would have rolled over a bank and into an entire street of homes. If they had derailed slightly to the south, they would have rolled over a rail bridge that spans a major roadway; if they had derailed slightly to the north, they would have fallen into a Montessori School that was open. Serious casualties and property loss would have resulted.

We were fortunate about the location, but also about the contents—coal. While making a serious mess, we did not have to cope with hazardous chemicals or nuclear waste, neither of which we are prepared for in terms of a public safety response.

This accident has left all of us frightened about the prospect of bringing nuclear waste over those same tracks through a huge population center. The potential for serious loss of life with any train accident is beyond comprehension.

On behalf of this community I ask that you stop any shipment of nuclear waste, especially through any population centers. I am available at 314-963-5307 for further information concerning this accident or our opposition to this proposal.

Sincerely,

Gerry Welch
Mayor